BISS Biodiversity Information Science and Standards

Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 5: e79050
doi: 10.3897/biss.5.79050

OPEN ACCESS

Conference Abstract

Translating TDWG Controlled Vocabularies

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Received: 08 Dec 2021 | Published: 08 Dec 2021

Citation: Baskauf SJ, Zermoglio PF (2021) Translating TDWG Controlled Vocabularies. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 5: e79050. https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.5.79050

Abstract

Users may be more likely to understand and utilize standards if they are able to read labels and definitions of terms in their own languages. Increasing standards usage in non-English speaking parts of the world will be important for making biodiversity data from across the globe more uniformly available. For these reasons, it is important for Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) to make its standards widely available in as many languages as possible. Currently, TDWG has six ratified controlled vocabularies*[1], [2], [3], [4], [5], [6] that were originally available only in English. As an outcome of this workshop, we have made term labels and definitions in those vocabularies available in the languages of translators who participated in its sessions. In the introduction, we reviewed the concept of vocabularies, explained the distinction between term labels and controlled value strings, and described how multilingual labels and definitions fit into the standards development process. The introduction was followed by working sessions in which individual translators or small groups working in a single language filled out Google Sheets with their translations. The resulting translations were compiled along with attribution information for the translators and made freely available in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) and comma separated values (CSV) formats.*[7]

Keywords

internationalization, standards, Dublin Core, Audubon Core, Darwin Core

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Presented at

TDWG 2021

Endnotes

*1 Controlled vocabulary for Dublin Core format http://rs.tdwg.org/ac/doc/format/
*2 Controlled vocabulary for Audubon Core subtype http://rs.tdwg.org/ac/doc/subtype/
*3 Controlled vocabulary for Audubon Core variant http://rs.tdwg.org/ac/doc/variant/
*4 Establishment Means controlled vocabulary http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/doc/em/
*5 Degree of Establishment controlled vocabulary http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/doc/doe/
*6 Pathway controlled vocabulary http://rs.tdwg.org/dwc/doc/pw/
*7 Translations available at https://tdwg.github.io/rs.tdwg.org/